

Port Orford Free Press

1.12

Vol. 1 Number 12 – Friday, October 24, 2014

A Publication of Citizens For A Free Port Orford

Vision for Port Orford

On 09 & 11 September 2014 I attended two presentations by America's Wild Rivers Coast Alliance regarding the visioning process for Port Orford. (AWRCA is a philanthropic organization of the Bandon Links Golf Course owned by Mike Keiser, formerly from Chicago.) Jim Seeley, a representative of AWRCA, said one of the reasons for AWRCA to be helping Port Orford in its visioning process is that Port Orford is the poorest community in Oregon. Seriously? This is news to me because even though we may be economically challenged or broke at times or do without things we rationalize we don't need, I don't believe any of us think of ourselves as poor. Many of us who have lived here most of our lives don't think of ourselves as poor because we live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. Compared to other places, our income is less, but it is a trade-off for the breath-taking scenery that surrounds us. While it's true we cannot eat the scenery, the beauty of this place where we live is food for the soul and a feast for the eyes. You can go outside when the winter storms blow in and feel uplifted when Mariah's winds straighten your hair and fill your lungs with pure ocean air (hopefully washed clean of China's air pollution and Japan's radiation). Many of our residents take advantage of our natural surroundings for their entertainment and enjoyment, which is usually free. If you know how to live off the land, there are always the forest and rivers and ocean to provide us sustenance. It all depends on how important the internet and cell phones and cable television are to your way of life. But poor?

The following week, in the Port Orford News, I read a letter-to-the-editor regarding the poor and hungry in Bandon Oregon. I was struck by the fact that "65% of the Bandon school children are on free or reduced-prices lunches and that their (5) food banks can barely keep up with the need." Port Orford has only one food bank. I went to the 2CJ school district office in Port Orford and asked what the percentage of school children in our school are receiving 'free or reduced prices lunches' -- the estimate was 63%.

If I remember correctly, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort has been in Bandon since 2001. At that time the number of 2-page applications for jobs was over three feet tall. That's a lot of applications. Bandon Dunes Resort has been in Bandon for 13 years and there is still all this hunger in Bandon? How can they pursue their visioning process of tourism for the southern Oregon coast, Port Orford in particular, when their own house is not in order and doesn't seem to have benefited from the many minimum wage jobs at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort? Everyone hears about the great tips the caddies make, but you don't hear much about the housekeeping jobs which receive minimum wages with no tips. The jobs of servitude and cleaning up after the rich and wealthy. The only reason those people are working at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort is that there are not enough better paying non-seasonal jobs.

I believe the working people of Port Orford want real jobs with better than seasonal subsistence wages which so far have resulted in a cycle of the summertime tourism jobs, then unemployment assistance until that runs out, culminating in welfare which continues until the next summer season of those great seasonal tourism jobs. The jobs that are not seasonal, such as grocery store clerks, are shorted a forty hour week so they do not qualify for the company's health insurance.

The 'tourism vision' from which a sustainable living is to be had for the other eight months of the tourism year, is to be derived from "birding", the bird lovers who travel here to view all the unusual birds, and 'guiding' on the rivers for fishermen. Really, is that THE vision of Salem and AWRCA for Port Orford?

What about a 'ship-building school' as proposed by a friend of mine or an 'audio-visual production studio' or energy production with the vertical drum type of wind generators. Surely there are other ideas from our community which would create viable living-wage jobs. But for Salem to propose tourism as an economic vision for Port Orford seems so lame considering they supposedly have the smartest and the brightest working there to come up with great ideas.

At the September Port Orford city council meeting where I made many of these same comments, our Curry County Commissioner (David Brock Smith) said, "we don't want to alienate these people.....because Jim Seeley is a nice man". Yes he is a nice man and that is his job -- to be nice. But what about them alienating us with their secretive 'visioning' meetings and lack-luster vision for the economic future of Curry County and Port Orford?

TreSaw
(one who saw the tree falling in the forest)

Brett Webb Statement

My name is Brett Webb, I will be 46 years old in December. I am the father of five, and the grandfather of two. My family is extremely important to me, I grew up in Southern California, then came to the Southern Oregon Coast at age eighteen. I've never considered leaving. This place is my home.

My first job in Oregon was at a sawmill in the 1980's. I fooled around for a couple years in the trucking industry, hauling a variety of local goods, including milk from Brice Wagner's Elk River Dairy farm in the early 90's.

I found my way into commercial fishing over twenty years ago, and have supported my family with sustainable fishing practices, in Port Orford since that time. I have employed dozens of local men and women in my capacity as a small business owner in the pursuit of harvesting our oceans bounty. I have owned homes on the Elk River and in our city, and am current with all taxes demanded by the IRS and Oregon Dept of Revenue. I understand the heavy burden of taxes, but also understand the need to tax citizens for our society to operate in an advanced manner.

Government accountability and transparency are at the forefront of my ideals, and are a driving force in my decision to seek a seat on the city council.

I am the Senior Port Commissioner at the Port of Port Orford, serving my sixth year having won a second term election. I served two years as Chairman.

I also serve the people of the United States, and State of Oregon in the following positions:

Board member, Commercial Nearshore Fisheries Advisory Board. Adviser to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commercial Near shore Fisheries – I help resource managers establish harvest limits and other Nearshore Fishery related issues.

Board member for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries Permit review board – I advise an Oregon law judge, on behalf of the State of Oregon on disputed fishery permits.

Board member on the Southern Oregon Ocean Resource Coalition – I advise private energy companies, Federal, State, Local Government, and agencies on ocean use issues, especially offshore wind energy and wave energy issues, and ocean lease applications and requirements.

The founding member of the Port of Port Orford Reorganized Fisherman's Association – I help provide the voice of local fishermen on critical ocean issues.

To be clear

Private businesses - trust me
My crewmen - trust me
Federal, State, Local Governments, and Agencies - trust me
The Oregon Judicial branch of Government - trusts me
The people of our Port District - trust me
The fishing industry - trusts me
My spouse, children and grandchildren-trust me

I ask for the people of this City to trust me, I will provide truth, transparency and accountability in city government.

City Council Meeting

— staff reporter

The meeting was called to order by the mayor to a small audience of about 12 citizens. Councilor Schofield was absent without explanation once again.

The mayor jumped right into the two presentations, both of which did not show, and had to be reigned in by Council President Pogwizd, reminding the mayor that he had again overlooked additions to the agenda. At this point Council President Pogwizd requested that an issue concerning police response to the High School be added to the agenda. It was agreed by consensus to discuss the issue during new business.

Citizens concerns

Dorene Ames – wanted to discuss the Dark Sky ordinance, and the lack of enforcement thereof. "How is a business compliant that lights up the back lot to the point it floods a residential area, there are no safety concerns to warrant this." The City Admin needs to review the \$450 book mentioned in the controlling document to determine lumens for a particular bulb, as wattage alone is not adequate – CFL bulbs are much brighter than similar wattage incandescents. Additionally, with a new owner, the grandfather clause no longer applies. **Teresa Kolibaba** – wanted to address the light intrusion issue by saying that sleep deprivation is a serious health issue, and wanted to know "Why is it taking City Hall so long to enforce or even properly investigate this complaint?" **Gary Wickham** – Favors converting the BMX park to a dog park.

A discussion ensued concerning the Dark Sky ordinance with Councilor Clancy asking the admin "How do we resolve this?". The admin responded "the bulbs are all 60W, the uncovered back light is an issue – 60W is within the limit." adding its more of we "appreciate you follow", not a demand. The mayor added "Ask them to put a cap on it?", admin "we did, but they are not required to, being grandfathered in." Council President Pogwizd stated "There is a difference between lumens and watts."

Departmental Reports

Admin – no discussion
Finance – Councilor Clancy mentioned that since the last meeting, and the review by our attorney, the software upgrade is now free of all charges. Councilors MacLeod & Clancy both asked for clarification on items in the check register. Council President Pogwizd questioned the engineering charges, and the fact they are considerably higher, and have been each month, and he is concerned.
Police – Officer Chris Hansen stated Levi is now trained as a TASER instructor [Ed. We paid a lot of money for this, what is our benefit?]. He also stated that there had been several arrests concerning burglaries and car breakins. New shift hours for officers is now 7am-3pm, and 2-10pm, daily. The officers did a walkthru of the water plant last month, and will soon do the same at the sewer plant. At this point Council President Pogwizd asked about coverage at the high school, and would the local officers respond to an emergency there. Officer Hansen stated that they had a presence at Driftwood but not at Pacific HS. Council President Pogwizd asked directly, “Would you respond?”, Officer Hansen said “Yes, under our mutual assist agreement with the county.”
Planning Commission – no report. [Ed. See it on-line at archive.org]
Mayor's report – no discussion.

Liaison Reports

Schools – Councilor MacLeod reported the school board has a new program for math, and has introduced a Math Family Nite, with classes in “Financial Algebra” [Ed. ?]. Chamber/TLT – Council President Pogwizd turned his report over to Chamber President James. James discussed their upcoming projects including a Christmas Light program for the town at large, Driftwood and the CG Station; a visitor's guide of local activities; a Battle Rock Park festival; a Salmon Derby; and a Safe & Sane Halloween along the Hwy 101 business corridor.
Fire Board – Councilor Clancy stated the contract review with the city is ongoing.
Parks – Councilor Billings mentioned the Dog Park discussions and the Leash Law coming up.
Watershed/Health – The council was locked out of their location and met at a private home.
Port – no councilor to report.
County – no commissioner present to report.

New Business

Converting the BMX Park to a Dog Park – Motion was made by Councilor Billings to convert the present BMX Park to a Dog Park, 2nd by Clancy, with little discussion the motion passed 5/0.

Noise Ordinance review – tabled as the admin was having problems understanding the State Rules, stating they are “too complex, this will take some time for me to understand”.

Scenic Bikeway Letter of Support – Motion made by Council President Pogwizd to approve a Letter of Support for the “Wild Rivers Coast Bikeway”, 2nd by Billings, motion passed 5/0.

Recreational Marijuana Taxing Ordinance, First Reading – Mayor began discussion by stating “We need to pass this before the election to make the tax work.” Councilor MacLeod moved to table the matter, but got no 2nd. The Mayor bumbled on about it, when Councilor Clancy added

“This means we need another Special Meeting then”. Council President Pogwizd suggested to continue the first reading, then hold a special meeting to vote on it. The mayor continued with his first reading of the taxing ordinance. Council President Pogwizd stated that “the State is not likely to allow it.” [Ed. In fact Sec 42, Prop 91 specifically forbids it]. It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting the week of the 27th for the final reading and vote on the tax. Councilor Clancy stated to the admin “Make sure its properly advertised.”

Planning Commission Appointment – Three candidates applied, 2 city residents, and one new arrival from the urban growth area. The mayor's choice was the urban growth candidate, a former Arizona resident and hydrologist with an interesting past related to land issues. Councilor Clancy asked Mr McHugh what his current or past affiliation with golf courses were, he stated he does not now, nor has he ever had affiliations with golf courses. Council President Pogwizd motioned to accept Mr. McHugh, 2nd by McArdle. Passed 4 yes, MacLeod, NO.

Consent Calendar – With only Minutes of prior meetings. Council President Pogwizd motioned to accept, 2nd by McArdle – Passed 5/0.

Continuing Action Items – Councilor Clancy asked about Leash Law enforcement – the police don't want more laws to administer, when the nuisance law could be used instead. Council President Pogwizd mentioned they can't take an animal, there is no place to keep it. The mayor suggested citing the owner.

Citizens Concerns

Gary Wickham – wants to see a visioning process started with no preconceptions or outside group input, and stressed the leash law is needed. **Teresea Kolibaba** – leash law a good idea. **Bob Clifford** asked if any of the children that may use the BMX park were queried? He also asked about the water rate study he's been asking for for over two years now. The mayor said it was done a year ago. Mr Clifford asked where it was available? The clerk responded, “the office”, Clifford asked for the library. The mayor became agitated and stated emphatically, “NO!”, when asked “why?”, he responded, “Just NO!!”. **Dorene Ames** - “Why are we still calling Diane Schofield a councilor – she's gone, she no longer lives here!?!?”. She has been surveying other cities of similar size, and none had both a finance director and city administrator, and the average salary for the position is \$47K – here we have both, and the Fiance Director just gave himself an 11% raise [Ed. he now makes \$87K/yr, with a part time assistant at about \$30K, plus the city admin at about \$50K]. Councilor McArdle's wife **Pat** got up to say she thought the admin was doing a good job.

Staff/Councilor Considerations

Councilor Clancy said “I'll take the rate study over to the Library, please make me a copy”.

Port Commission Meeting

– staff reporter

The meeting was opened with all commissioners present for the first time in several months.

Unlisted Items – Last meeting Commissioner Webb had requested an item to discuss Commissioner Schofield's lack of attendance, but as she was present, dropped the request. Commissioner Scaffo requested time under Executive Session to discuss some Real Estate items. The Port Manager passed out DVDs to be viewed by the Commissioners which will save 2% on insurance fees.

At this time Commissioner Bassett felt it

necessary to inform the audience at large that they had just come from a meeting at the port office with ODFW on the Economic Impact of the Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve. Dr. Swearingen recommended funding for additional research. Commissioner Webb stated “we want to be a bigger partner in the research this time.”

Minutes for the 9/16 and 10/14 meetings were approved 5/0.

Old Business

Strategic Business Plan – The Port Manager (PM) stated BergerABAM & IFA are forming a game plan and they are very close to setting up a meeting time with the commission. **Pequod** – PM stated the vessel has been sold for \$3K, \$2500 down payment, \$500 due over next 5 months, it is being moved to the bone yard. Commissioner Bassett “the tie rod broke on the trailer when we tried to move it, the purchaser is blocking up the vessel for storm prep”, Commissioner Scaffo “its the property and responsibility of the Port until paid in full”, Commissioner Webb “Two options – fix the trailer and move it at our expense, or relinquish title – as is where is, and call it a wash.. this has the least liability for us”. After further discussion, Commissioner Scaffo motioned “The PM take immediate action to repair the trailer and move the vessel to the bone yard”, passed 5/0. **DSL Lease** – The State has re-evaluated the lease, and determined the Port has less land at a marked increase in value, raising the cost of the lease from \$3300 to \$4100/mo. A meeting has been set for 10/29 at the Port office to meet with the DSL to discuss.

New Business

Mileage allowance for generator trip – Commissioner Scaffo stated that due to the weight of the generator the fuel costs were higher than expected and requested a one time increase in the mileage allowance to \$1.02/mi, and made a motion requesting same – motion passed 5/0.

Meeting Reports

Commissioner Webb – At OPAC, Redfish Rocks report. Webb made a presentation requesting funds for continued research in the reserve. He also stated the Fed's NMS manager made it clear that they still want Port Orford, and are willing to wait for the management [Ed. political climate?] to change.

Managers Report

PM stated the Coast Guard AID has been removed from the jetty, and will eventually be replaced with a light and RADAR reflector. All deck grates have been cleaned out. The oil sump was cleaned out and filters still need replaced. A bid was received for the security cameras at \$8200, but only a \$6K budget. As such, PM used the funds for a 'gas free' meter and better lighting on the dock, which still fits the parameters of the grant. Through a contact with the Coast Guard, he was able to obtain surplus office equipment for free. The PM also wished to publicly thank Gary Anderson, Mike Hewitt, Tim Leslie, Wayne Moore and Lance Cox for their assistance on Port projects.

Fiance Report

PM stated the P&L “looks good.” Commissioner Webb asked “Why? Is the fuel profit still the same?”, PM “yes”. No further comments on 'why'.

The Commission went into **Executive Session** to discuss two Real Estate related items. On return from the session, Commissioner Webb motioned to give current tenant of the 10x16 dock office until 11/18 to decide to continue, and otherwise be out by 12/31/2014. Passed 3/1, Commissioner Calvanese recused himself.

Notice

All submissions to the *Port Orford Free Press* must be made by email, in text only format – all other forms will be rejected.
Email submissions to:
PortOrfordFreePress@gmail.com